



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Home National Historic Site  
413 S. Eighth Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1905

217-391-3222 phone  
[www.nps.gov/liho](http://www.nps.gov/liho)

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## National Park Service News Release

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Contacts: Timothy P. Townsend, 217.391.3421, [tim\\_townsend@nps.gov](mailto:tim_townsend@nps.gov)

**Lincoln Home National Historic Site;  
Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area; and,  
Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois  
Selected at 2012 National Park Foundation  
America's Best Idea Grant Recipient**

*Lincoln Home National Historic Site joins 48 Parks Across the Country to  
Participate in Foundation's 2012 Program*

**SPRINGFIELD** – Lincoln Home National Historic Site and the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area have been selected as one of 49 national parks participating in the 2012 America's Best Idea program sponsored by the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks. Inspired by the critically-acclaimed Ken Burns documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, the America's Best Idea grant program funds park projects designed to connect diverse, under-engaged populations throughout the United States with their national parks in innovative and meaningful ways.

"We are proud to provide the much needed support to create unique opportunities for all Americans to personally connect with their national parks," said Neil Mulholland, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "The America's Best Idea grants are often the catalyst for extraordinary experiences that develop into lifelong relationships with our national parks for the program participants."

The America's Best Idea grant will fund the further development and implementation of the web based program, "Journey to Greatness: Character Lessons from the Past." Journey to Greatness is a program designed to help inspire students to overcome challenges that they might be facing by presenting them with the childhood stories of the challenges that Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Specifically, faced and overcame as children

to ultimately achieve greatness. The program is intended to inspire students to do well in school and life, as well as gain an appreciation for history.

The students at the Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois will participate in the “Journey to Greatness” program at the Boys and Girls Club headquarters during the fall of 2012, where they will learn more about the childhoods of Lincoln, Douglass, Tubman, and King. The students will then think about their own lives while gaining inspiration from knowing that Lincoln, Douglass, Tubman, and King, all persevered to achieve greatness. The students will also visit Lincoln Home National Historic Site where they will video tape their reflection on what they think their “journey to greatness” will be.

For a full listing of participating parks and program descriptions, please visit the National Park Foundation website.

The National Park Foundation and Lincoln Home National Historic Site wish to thank L.L. Bean, DISNEY, the Anschutz Foundation, and the Ahmanson Foundation for their generous support of the America’s Best Idea program.

For more information on the National Park Foundation or how you can support and protect America’s national parks, please visit [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org).

For more information about the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area please visit <http://www.lookingforlincoln.com>.

**About the National Park Foundation.** You are the owner of 84 million acres of the world’s most treasured memorials, landscapes, ecosystems, and historic sites -- all protected in America’s nearly 400 national parks. Chartered by Congress, the National Park Foundation is the official charity of America’s national parks. We work hand in hand with the National Park Service to connect you and all Americans to the parks, and to make sure that they are preserved for the generations who will follow. Join us in supporting your national parks -- this is your land. [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org)

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*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 397 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*